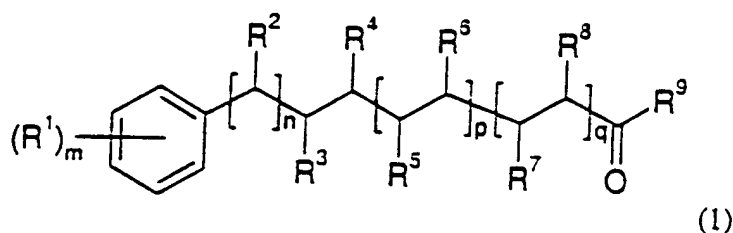


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A method of treating a subject having a skin condition selected from the group of conditions (a) those treatable by stimulation of melanocyte proliferation and (b) melanomas, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (1)



wherein  $n = 0$  or  $1$ ;

$p$  is  $0$  or  $1$ ;

$q$  is  $0$  or  $1$

when  $n = p = q = 0$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  represent hydrogen or together represent a carbon to carbon double bond;

when  $n = 0$  and one of  $p$  and  $q = 1$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together and one of  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent carbon to carbon double bonds,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together represent a carbon to carbon double bond and  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent hydrogen atoms,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  represent hydrogen and one of  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent carbon to carbon double bonds or  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  all represent hydrogen atoms; when  $n = 0$  and  $p = q = 1$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together and one of  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent carbon to carbon double bonds

the other of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  representing hydrogen,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together represent a carbon to carbon double bond and  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent hydrogen atoms,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  represent hydrogen and one of  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent carbon to carbon double bonds the other of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  representing hydrogen,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together and  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent carbon to carbon double bonds or  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  all represent hydrogen atoms;

or optionally when  $n$  is 1  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together represent a carbon to carbon double bond and one or more of  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  together,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent a carbon to carbon double bond the other of  $R^4$  to  $R^8$  representing hydrogen;

$m = 1, 2$  or  $3$ ;

when  $m = 1$ ,  $R^1$  represents an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a hydroxy group;

when  $m = 2$ , each  $R^1$  independently represents an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or the two  $R^1$ 's together represent a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy group;

when  $m = 3$ , two  $R^1$ 's together represent a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy group and the other  $R^1$  represents an alkoxy group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a hydroxy group;  $R^9$  represents a pyrrolidino, piperidino, 4-methylpiperidino or morpholino group, a N-monoalkylamino group of 4 to 6 carbon atoms, a N-monocycloalkylamino group of 4 to 7 carbon atoms, a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy-substituted benzylamino or 2-phenethylamino group or  $R^9$  represents an alkoxy group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; in any of its E, Z geometrically isomeric forms.

2 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the subject is a patient suffering from a melanoma.

3 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the subject is a patient suffering from a skin disorder treatable by stimulation of melanocyte proliferation.

4 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin disorder is vitiligo.

5 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound is administered topically to the area of the skin to be treated.

6 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (1) is one in which:

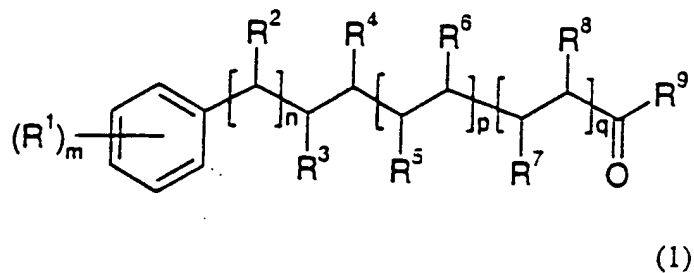
$n = 0$ , one of  $p$  and  $q = 1$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together and one of  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent the second bond of a carbon to carbon double bond the other of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  representing hydrogen,  $m=2$ , the  $R^1$  groups together represent 3',4'-methylenedioxy and  $R^9$  represents a pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, cyclohexylamino or isobutylamino group.

7 (original). The method of Claim 6, wherein the compound is of the E, E geometric configuration.

8 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is one in which  $n$  is 0, one of  $p$  and  $q$  is 1,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent hydrogen and  $R^9$  is cyclohexylamino.

9 (original). The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (1) is piperine, being the E, E-isomer of the compound of formula (1) in which  $n = 0$ , one of  $p$  or  $q = 1$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  together and one of  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  together or  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together represent the second bond of a carbon to carbon double bond, the other of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  representing hydrogen,  $m = 2$ , the  $R^1$  groups together represent 3', 4'-methylenedioxy and  $R^9$  represents piperidino, and the geometric configuration is E, E.

10 (original). A method of treating a subject having a skin condition selected from the group of conditions (a) those treatable by stimulation of melanocyte proliferation and (b) melanomas, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (1)



in which

(a)  $n$  is 0,  $p$  and  $q$  are each 0 or 1,  $m$  is 2, the  $R^1$ 's together represent a 3', 4'-methylenedioxy group,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$ , together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a carbon to carbon double bond and, when  $p$  and  $q$  are each 0 or 1,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a carbon to carbon double bond and  $R^9$  is piperidino, or

(b)  $n$  is 0, one of  $p$  or  $q$  is 1 and (i)  $m$  is 3, the  $R^1$ 's being 3', 4'-methylenedioxy and 6'-methoxy or (ii)  $m$  is 2, the  $R^1$ 's being 3'-hydroxy-4'-methoxy; or (iii)  $m$  is 1 and the  $R^1$  is 4'-hydroxy; and  $R^3$  to  $R^9$  are as defined in case (a) above, or

(c)  $n$  is 0, one of  $p$  and  $q$  is 1,  $R^9$  is piperidino, pyrrolidino, isobutylamino or methoxy and all other symbols are as defined in case (a) above, or

(d)  $n$  is 0, one of  $p$  and  $q$  is 1,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  represent hydrogen atoms and either  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  also do or  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a carbon to carbon double bond; and  $m$ ,  $R^1$  and  $R^9$  are as defined in case (a) above;

(e)  $n$  is 0,  $p = q = 1$  and  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent hydrogen;

(f)  $n$  is 0, one of  $p$  and  $q$  is 1,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent hydrogen and  $R^9$  is cyclohexylamino; and

in all of which cases (a) to (f) the molecule is in the E,E or all E geometric configuration or in case (a) when  $n$  is 1 may be in the Z,Z, Z,E or E,Z geometric configuration.

11 (original). The method of Claim 10, wherein the subject is a patient suffering from a melanoma.

12 (original). The method of Claim 10, wherein the subject is a patient suffering from a skin disorder treatable by stimulation of melanocyte proliferation.

13 (original). The method of Claim 10, wherein the skin disorder is vitiligo.

14 (canceled).